

# Core Values

## *Resolve Conflict Biblically*

**Core Value:** Resolve Conflict Biblically.

**Unresolved conflict:**

Hinders my prayers.

Harms my testimony.

Gets me off mission.

**How to resolve conflict biblically:**

Focus on essentials.

*Acts 15:1* Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup>This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them.

**INSERT GRAPHIC HERE**

Recognize spiritual authority.

*Acts 15:2* So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Don't involve others.

*Acts 15:3* The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad.

Emphasize the positive.

*Acts 15:4* When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

Work through the issue together.

*Acts 15:5* Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." <sup>6</sup>The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

Stick to the facts.

*Acts 15:7* After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup>God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup>He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Emphasize God's grace.

*Acts 15:10* Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup>No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." <sup>12</sup>The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

Use Scripture as the guide.

*Acts 15:13* When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup>Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. <sup>15</sup>The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: <sup>16</sup>"After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup>that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' <sup>18</sup>that have been known for ages.

Sacrifice preferences.

*Acts 15:19* "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God."

Seek God's will.

*Acts 15:22* Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers. <sup>23</sup>With them they sent the following letter... <sup>27</sup>Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. <sup>28</sup>It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements..."

Move on.

*Acts 15:30 The men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup>The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. <sup>32</sup>Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers. <sup>33</sup>After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them. <sup>35</sup>But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.*